

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

Spring Term 2016 Newsletter



Welcome!

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write to you, we are fast approaching Holy Week and the final preparation for celebrating the joyful resurrection of our saviour, Jesus Christ. I sincerely hope that all members of the St Wilfrid's community will find joy in the events of Easter and that it will inspire us all to return in the Summer Term with renewed freshness and vigour in all aspects of our lives.

Although a short term, it has been packed full of activity. I hope the contents of this newsletter will give you a flavour of the variety and richness of experience and opportunity which encourages all students to search for a standard of excellence in all aspects of their lives.

The Summer Term will be fast upon us and it will offer many challenges particularly to those students who are currently preparing for exams. I wish them all well and would ask you to pray for them as they move into the examination season with the aim of being the best they can be.



Wishing you a happy and Holy Easter

God bless

Mr Michael Ferry
Headteacher

A Message from our Head Students

How quickly time flies! We have now reached the end of our second term. This term has been fantastic! From outstanding sporting achievements to praiseworthy academic accomplishments and a mind blowing school production of 'Hairspray'! This term has given us so much to relish and be proud of, and even more to look forward to in the final term. These amazing achievements are the result of everyone's hard work and involvement in the school community so thank you to everyone for making this possible.

At the end of next term we will have moved onto the next chapter in our lives so sadly, this will be the last time we will have the chance to communicate with you. We wish you all the best at St Wilfrid's and hope that your school life so far serves as a benchmark for future success and achievement. Thank you for making St Wilfrid's the fantastic school it is!

We wish you all a restful Easter break filled with lots of happiness and plenty of Easter eggs.

Happy Easter everyone!



Head Students
Chantelle, Saima and Reena





Hairspray Production Wows Audiences

St Wilfrid's was filled with soul in February when students wowed audiences over four nights with their amazing sell out production of Hairspray, a musical comedy about relationships and race.

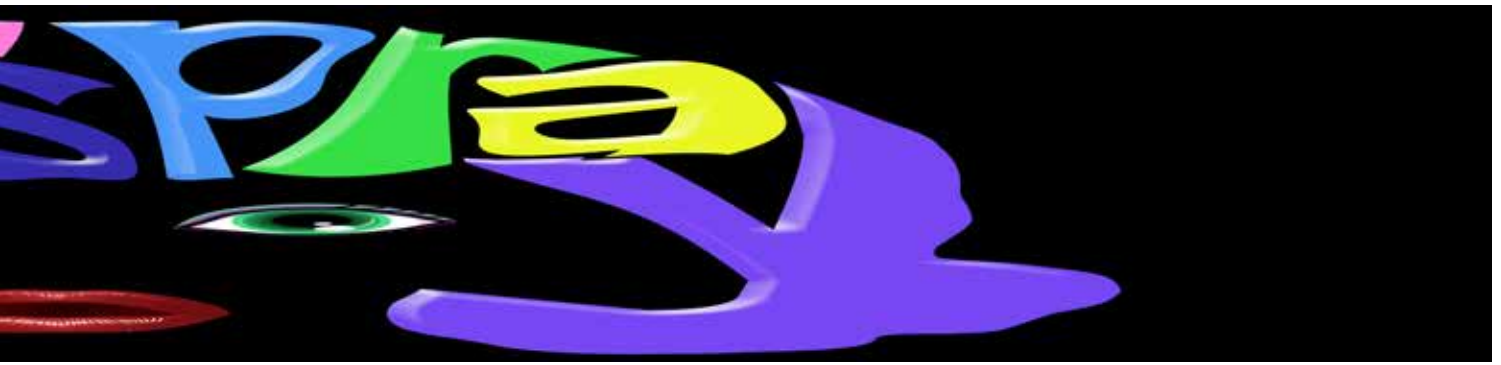
Sisters Alex and Brooke Hill shared the lead role of Tracy Turnblad, a girl with big hair and an even bigger heart who wants to integrate a TV dance show. She captures the heart of Link Larkin, played by Henry Olding. Tracy's mother was played by the very funny and supportive Brent Van Der Merwe. Tracy also gets support from the station's DJ, Motormouth Mabel, a role shared by Precious Otor and Annabel Amankwatia, both of whose passionate soul singing moved the audience in all directions. The quality of all the performances was absolutely outstanding with the high tempo atmosphere enticing audience members to relish in the toe-tapping, hand clapping, hip twisting rhythmic music. The choreography was superb and effortlessly executed by the cast.

Other key performers were Holly Scott and Amy O'Connor who shared the role of Tracy's best friend, Penny Pingleton; Annie Bell and Leah Jacobs who were both very convincing as the nasty Amber Von Tussle; along with her vile mother, played by Niamh Lainchbury and Tilly Burrows. Along with great performances from Albie Campbell and Niall O'Mara as Corny Collins the TV show host, who guided the audience through the adventure.

The show was an outstanding success playing to over 1000 people over four nights and including a Matinee on the Saturday afternoon. With over the 250 students auditioning in September, we had the largest cast we have had for a production with around 80 students involved from every year group, along with a live band of 9 musicians.

As ever, we had students involved in running the show backstage as well with stage management, backstage crew, lighting and sound. Each student had a particular role that helped the performance to run smoothly, performance after performance. These students called cues, worked the lighting equipment, organised the microphones and dealt with all concerns on and off stage. St Wilfrid's were also lucky enough to have help from Northbrook College whose students came to do the cast's hair and make up for each performance.





Mr Ferry, commented, "The hard work and effort that went into this year's production was magnificent and it was an absolute pleasure to see it all. The enthusiasm and energy that the cast and crew put in every night was phenomenal. A show of this calibre could not happen without the dedicated team of staff as well as the amazing students and I am incredibly proud of them all. It was a truly inspirational experience for all involved."

Reviews

"It was a wonderful evening and I would like to thank the energetic and enthusiastic cast, the musicians and to all who did so much backstage and behind the scenes to ensure such an entertaining production for everyone." *Bishop Richard*

"Please convey my congratulations to all staff and students involved in the production of Hairspray. It was really excellent and you could see how hard everyone must have worked to achieve such a high standard of performance. The casting was inspired with some outstanding characters. The mood and style of the era had been captured perfectly. It was clear to all watching how enthusiastic the students were and how much they were enjoying themselves. I have watched many, many performances in my time at St Wilfrid's but I can honestly say that I thought that this was one of the best." *Mrs Dawson, former English Teacher at St Wilfrid's*

"I just wanted to congratulate the school on such a successful production. Clearly, everyone involved, students and teachers, worked extremely hard and I wanted to thank you and all other staff involved for all your hard work. It was great to see Ollie involved, but also a real pleasure to see so many young people having an opportunity to showcase their talents." *Mrs Colbran, Year 10 Parent*

"I would like to congratulate all the staff and students who took part in Hairspray. I saw it three times and still have the songs going round in my head! The songs were great and the dancing was fantastic, the enthusiasm displayed by all the kids was evident and heart-warming. It is all too easy to stereotype young people in a bad light, however the delight on the faces of the students was fantastic. Especially one young actress-to-be who played `Amber` with such gusto! Once again, well done St Wilfrid's!!" *Mr Bell, Year 10 Parent*



Hairspray Cast & Crew



Chaplaincy

This Spring Term, like any other, the Chaplaincy door has been open and many students have taken advantage of our "Listening" service. We hope that for all it is a welcome place to come to have a chat and feel supported.



Sacramental Life of the School:

Weekly Mass

Our 9am Friday mass continues to run with the support of the Priests of the Friary. All are warmly welcomed to share in this weekly celebration with us. Many thanks to all who share their ministries at this time, including our dedicated group of servers, readers and musicians. Special thanks goes to the Chapel choir who have worked hard on producing a new songbook with a great mix of contemporary and traditional hymns.

Reconciliation

Our Lenten day of Reconciliation was very well supported by our deanery priests, which meant that they were able to hear in excess of 200 confessions. In this Jubilee year of mercy, we decided to revamp the resources used to support students in making their confessions. Many thanks to those students who shared their thoughts and idea on how to improve things. The most commented on was the rolling PowerPoint playing in the Chapel to help with the "Examination of Conscience". Students found this guide and format engaging and relevant. As usual, they treated this time with great respect and reverence and their approach made for a very meaningful experience.

Spring term Activities

Year 8 Community Day:

Year 8 were off timetable for a day in January to reflect on the theme "Faith in Action", inspired by the Matthew 25: 31-49, "The Sheep and the Goats". The feedback from staff and students was very positive as was the response from individual students and whole tutor groups who have felt compelled to respond to the day and commit to a variety of ways of putting their own personal faith into action.

Year 8 Space

This group was formed in September and it continues to be a well attended event. The session involves, fun, games, creative activities and always, has some time of prayer and reflection. This term, Year 8 space has also had a familiar visitor join us for a session, many thanks to Jack Regan for coming to see us.



Chaplaincy Outreach Project to our Deanery schools

We are continuing to do outreach work to our deanery primary schools, and we are enjoying involving our students in this. During Lent, we have visited St. Johns in Horsham and St Francis, Crawley. When we do these visits, we usually take students along with us who used to go to the primary school when they were younger. This creates a really lovely link with the younger pupils and lets them ask our students all about secondary school. Our primary school visits this term have all been revolving around Lent in some way. It's great to see how well everyone is preparing themselves for the events of Holy Week and Easter.



Women's World Day of Prayer

March 4th was interdenominational "Women's World Day of Prayer". Each year the women of one country write a prayer service that is then prayed in over 170 countries worldwide. The day of prayer begins as the sun rises over Samoa and as each country joins in, we become a great wave of prayer that continues to encircle the earth until the last service is held as the sun sets over American Samoa. This year, three of our sixth form students, Reena Joseph, Precious Otor and Chantel Basson were selected to lead the Crawley prayer service which took place at the Friary Church.



Fairtrade

Congratulations to Mr White who has been newly appointed to the role of "Fairtrade Coordinator" for St Wilfrid's. Welcome to the team! Recently, we have supported Fairtrade fortnight by running a tasty, fair tuck-shop. This fortnight falls in Lent which can make a "clash" of principles for those making the effort to give these things up for Lent, apologies for providing the temptation! The students involved urged others to "Do something different for Lent and buy fair"!



Lent

Ash Wednesday marked the start of our Lenten journey with a prayer filled and thought provoking "Ashing Service" for all students.

Stations of the Cross

New artworks based on the stations have been commissioned and produced by our Gifted Year 7 art group, lead by Miss Osman. We have been using these images alongside our more traditional stations in the Chapel throughout Lent. To quote from a Year 13 student reflection on the stations "The eye is amazing, all the emotion of the passion of Christ is reduced to a single tear, very moving, it helps me connect to the human story of the cross".



Lent Liturgy

The Lent Liturgy will take place on the Thursday of Holy Week this year and as such, it will focus on the events of Maundy Thursday, including a re enactment of the Last Supper and the Washing of Feet.





Our Sixth Form News

The Active Change Foundation - The Young Leaders Programme

Launched in 2012, the Young Leaders Programme enables young people to spend seven months exploring a cause that they feel passionate about through workshops, community events and a residential course. Its aim is to turn young people into community leaders by teaching leadership skills, crisis management and critical thinking within a problem-solving environment. The Programme enables these young people to act as peer mentors and further develop their capacity to train other young people as well as educate them about government policy in the areas of community cohesion, civic responsibilities and extremism.

Eight Sixth Form students have signed up to be part of the programme and recently held an assembly where they stood up and spoke to all the students about the cause that they had each chosen which included Homelessness, Discrimination, Mental Health, Religious Respect, Nutrition, The Portrayal of Africa in the Media, Youth Vote and Young Women Empowerment. Most of the students stood up and presented their cause and the reason why they chose it but Chantel, who had chosen Homelessness, had written a song which she performed beautifully.



Rosie Goss, 6RB Religious Respect @fortitude_faith **Why did I choose my cause?**

I chose religious discrimination because I think that it isn't looked upon in a serious enough light. Religion is a very personal choice unlike race or sex but it is a choice that needs to be respected and tolerated and should never be seen in a negative light. All religions ever do is invite people into their communities yet people still discriminate on a religious basis when most people are ignorant about that or any religion. I want it to be seen as respectful, courageous and inspirational, if someone is religious and that they aren't afraid to pursue it, aren't afraid to show it because in this day and age people can be very intolerant and negative, making it much harder pursuing a religion than not.

How did I feel about the Youth Leaders Programme?

The Young Leaders Programme took me by surprise and has given me an insight into the world, making me notice the importance of current affairs, educating me on topics such as extremism, terrorism and recruitment. This programme gave me the opportunity to progress in speaking skills so that I can successfully put forward my ideas and views and most importantly, it has taught me that the views of a 17 year old girl in Crawley matter just as much and can make just as much difference as the views of David Cameron or Barack Obama. I have met some wonderful young people who have both inspired and challenged me and if anyone gets the opportunity to go on the Young Leaders Programme then I highly recommend that you have a go at challenging society.



Titos Matafeni 6RB Discrimination @Equality2Unity

"Today in our society we are bombarded not only in the workplace but even in our local neighbourhoods and communities with discrimination of all forms. My cause is to spread awareness of this troubling onset and to also provide information on how to handle these issues in such situations. Change needs to happen but it cannot happen without support, to unlock the many colours and melodies in our communities we need to release the Trapped Harmony."

Follow their campaigns on twitter:

@NutritionDec @Uth_VOTE
@fortitude_faith @AfriCAN
@q_making @NotAlone_Crazy
@Equality2Unity



Daniel O'Connor Becomes the First St Wilfrid's Student to Compete in The British Mathematical Olympiad

Year 12 student, Daniel O'Connor, took part in The British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) at the end of January, which is the follow-on round for the Senior Maths Challenge and is organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT).

The results were released in March and St Wilfrid's were delighted with Daniel who gained 9 marks in Round 2, achieving a certificate of distinction, which places him in the top 25% of the participants, the majority of whom do not attend state schools!

Dawn Denyer, Director of Maths, comments, "I am extremely pleased that Daniel's love of maths has enabled him to achieve so well in this competition."

The British Mathematical Olympiad is the hardest annual mathematics competition for school students in the UK and is suitable only for students who have distinguished themselves by solving difficult problems in other competitions. Very few students can manage to completely solve any of the problems at all and it is not easy to even gain a single mark.



Sports News

Under 12 Girls Football News

On the 3rd March the Under 12 Girls Football Team competed in a 6 a side football tournament where they played against a number of schools in the Crawley Area. The squad consisted of Maisie Gunning-Shaw, Deimile Kutkaite, Amelia Sleight, Darcie Howe, Rhea Dawe, Lara Hunt, Kacie Rous and Zainab Najam.

The first game was played against Holy Trinity with the final score ending up at 6-0 for a St Wilfrid's victory, with a special mention to both Zainab and Maisie who scored some brilliant goals. The second game was against Hazlewick which the girls initially thought would be a tough opposition but again we came away with a 3-0 win. Some great team performances from the girls and some great saves by our goal keeper Amelia Sleight.

After all the games were played, the results were revealed announcing that St Wilfrid's were the winners of the tournament with a fantastic goal difference. The girls were extremely proud that they won and were owners of the Under 12 Football Shield 2016.



Well done to the Under 12 girls this season and let's look forward to next year!

Rugby

England v Ireland @ Twickenham

Through St Wilfrid's association with the RFU's All Schools Rugby Initiative, we sent 4 students in October to design a unique set of rugby shirts, solely for St Wilfrid's. The result is a fantastic shirt which was unveiled in style at Twickenham, before a crowd of 82,000 assembled for the England v Ireland match on February 27th.

Mr Iddles and Mr Turner had to join forces to supervise Year 9 Student Alex Marshall as he wore the shirt on the Twickenham pitch, standing next to Laura Wright, renowned opera singer, as she sang the National Anthem prior to the game. Alex shook hands with international lock Dave Attwood, rehearsed with Laura to sing the anthem, formed a guard of honour for the players as they arrived at Twickenham, and then got to watch the match from the stands. We had a brief view of Alex on the television replay later and his photograph has been placed in several RFU publications. It was a special day that will live in their memories.

Rugby Tournament

Following on from this, many of our students who train for rugby on Wednesdays (all still welcome) played in an eight a side tournament at Thomas Bennett. It was great to pit our skills against other schools and by playing extremely well the lads had a brilliant time. Winning, as we did in lots of the games, was incidental to getting out there and enjoying the experience. For many, it was the first time they had played in any form of competitive match and they loved it. Could you do as well? Rugby is about participation and fun, all wrapped up in respect for your mates and the opposition. Come and join us and find out for yourself. Our next tournament is on 13th April at Brighton RFC.



KS3 Rugby Students Visit Twickenham to Watch the England Squad Train

On Friday January 29th, 14 KS3 students were given a special invitation to visit an England Rugby Team Training session at Twickenham on Friday 29th January. The students were given the opportunity to observe the intensity of the training sessions and the level of concentration required by players.

All the students gained a great insight about what hard work and determination can lead to as well as further developing their interest in Rugby as a sport. It was an amazing opportunity and amazing atmosphere at the stadium with many other schools in attendance taking over the lower tier of the West Stand.

After the training session had finished the players and coaches came over to the West Stand to sign rugby balls and shirts and to have photos taken.

The programme has seen the RFU invest an initial £2million into bringing the sport into 750 schools and academies in the UK, with a further £8million pledged, enabling the PE Department at Neale-Wade to invest in equipment and increase coaching expertise.



Badminton

As is usual now, two St Wilfrid's teams won their age group event at the Area round of the National tournament, thereby qualifying for the County round, held at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, Haywards Heath last month. This is always a tough event against schools and players from all over Sussex, many of whom play several times a week and for the County itself. St Wilfrid's players were a little overawed to begin with but quickly proved what excellent game players they are by becoming much more confident as they realised that these 'wonderful' players are nothing special, just more experienced. We started winning individual games and then eventually a few matches. This was both a tremendous achievement and a steep learning curve that has benefited our players greatly.

Indoor Sports Athletics

Our Year 8 boys took part in the County Indoor Athletics Finals on Monday 22nd February, putting in an impressive effort in a difficult competition.

The boys had easily won the Crawley area competition but knew they had more of a battle on their hands in the County Final.

The running events saw some close races throughout with very few top 5 finishes for St Wilfrid's despite the clear efforts from Adam, Louis, Danny, Billy, Ben and Cameron. The team shone in the field events with Louis taking the title of Speed Bouncing with an impressive 72 in 30 seconds whilst Billy threw 9.5 metres on the shot put closely followed by William with 8.6m. William also jumped over 6m in the standing triple jump whilst Billy and Cameron both jumped over 2m in the standing long jump.

Overall the St Wilfrid's team came 5th out of 9 teams but in actual fact it was a very tight competition with Forest and Bishop Luffa deserved 1st and 2nd.



Useful Information

St Wilfrid's App

St Wilfrid's now has a free school app where you can now access information on your son/daughter and help keep in touch with the school. The app gives you direct access to your child's attendance, achievements, timetable, emails, messages and much more. You will also see that we update and change the information in the app as the school year moves along.

We are able to send you messages directly to the MyEd app relating to important information about your child's education and to remind you of events that are taking place at school. You will receive a notification if we send you a message and there is no charge for the messages you send to us.

The MyEd app is available for both Apple iOS and Android devices but unfortunately is not available on Windows phones. It can be found using the links below:

Step 1 - Go to your App Store Step 2 - Search for My Ed Step 3 - Download the Free app

Once you have installed and opened MyEd, search for ST WILFRID'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL here and follow the simple instructions to identify yourself.

Please note that only the contact(s) identified as Priority 1 that we have for your child will be able to receive this information. If you would like another of your contacts to be able to receive this information who is not Priority 1 then please contact Mrs Sarah Gildea at s.gildea@stwilfrids.com.

Attendance

At St Wilfrid's, attendance really does matter! Our students value their school and enjoy coming here. The results of this can be seen in our ever increasing improvement in attendance. Please could you make sure that you contact school on the first day of your son or daughter's absence or if they are going to be late due to a medical appointment by calling 01293 421421 and then press 1 for students in Y7-11 or 2 for 6th form, leaving the name of your child, tutor group and reason for absence before 9.00am where possible. You can also email absence@stwilfrids.com

School Uniform

Thank you to all our parents/carers for ensuring that your children have the correct uniform and that their appearance is of the highest order. If, over the Easter, you are purchasing new uniform, arranging haircuts etc, please refer to our Guidance document regarding what is/is not acceptable and, if in any doubt, please contact your child's tutor for clarification.

Our School Uniform can be purchased online at www.sussexuniforms.co.uk or telephone 01444 227066. Standard school trousers and white school shirts may be purchased from school wear departments of most chain stores. For more detailed information about our School Uniform please visit <http://stwilfrids.com/school-uniform>

Important Dates.....

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| Mon 11th April | Summer Term Commences |
| Thurs 14th April | An Evening of Dance 6.30pm |
| Fri 29th April | INSET Day - School Closed |
| Fri 27th May | Break up for Half Term |
| Thurs 9th June | Sixth Form Futures Day |
| Thurs 16th June | Year 11 Sixth Form Induction |
| Tues 21st June | KS3 Sports Day |
| Thurs 23rd June | Year 8 Parents Evening 5.00-8.15pm |
| Friday 24th June | Sixth Form Dinner Dance |
| Thurs 30th June | Performing Arts Evening 6.30pm |
| Fri 1st July | St Wilfrid's Day |
| | Year 11 Prom 6.00pm |
| Weds 6th July | Year 6 Induction Day |
| Thurs 21st July | St Wilfrid's Unplugged |
| Fri 22nd July | Summer Term Ends |

St Wilfrid's is on Twitter

Please follow us at @StWilfridSchool <https://twitter.com/stwilfridschool> to get tweets about what is going on in school throughout the day as well as information about school trips, after school clubs and general school information.

We have over 700 followers to date which includes staff, students, parents and members of our local community!

